

From: Douglas St.Clair
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 9:01pm
Subject: I am NOT in favor of the DOJ-Microsoft settlement

The proposal to provide restitution by giving their software to schools will undermine the efforts of its competitors to the school market. However I would support their donation of hardware provided it offered a balanced mix of Intel, PowerPC, and Sun hardware as well as UNIX, Solaris, and Mac OS X. I don't see any reason to enrich them by including any of their software.

If there are some favorable tax ramifications should they provide the equipment in this fashion these should be denied them so that they pay all the money due out to the public they have cheated.

I think the proposed break up of applications and operating system is the only way to ensure that everybody gets to play on a level playing field as regards interfacing with their OS. The proposals as they stand would seem to make it impossible for freeware and shareware makers to get the information they need to "compete" for example.